



Georgia On My Mind

Monthly Newsletter of the ARRL Georgia Section



June, 2022

Dayton Hamvention Pictures



Hitch Hiker.
Does digital
barking.

David ND1J and YL Meg K5MEG from Senoia GA. Meg is an accomplish CW op and David is well into digital communications. Last seen carrying a number of large boxes to the car.



Location of past Georgia on MY Mind editions

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1IDOPUoxeBBLii8coZB6fDrLYbaI9_9pN?usp=sharing

ARRL Field Day - June 25-26

Next month, we will hopefully have many cool pictures, from clubs all over the state, of this year's ARRL Field Day. Please be sure and share those with the state, by sending your pictures and special notes to: GeorgiaSection-ARRL@gmail.com



Felton Floyd AF4DN with his son James KF4HDE across from Steve Walls AD4JW and YL Melinda Walls WM4FL charging up at the Waffle House for the Saturday Dayton Hamfest in Xenia Ohio.

Atlanta Hamfest Recap

Hello Fellow Hams! Thank you for coming to the 2022 Atlanta Hamfest and ARRL Georgia State Convention on June 4th. Your presence made our 90th hamfest successful in many ways! Even with Covid on the ropes, 2022 came with a whole new set of challenges due to the economic and political conditions. This was the first year in the new convention hall at Jim R. Miller Park. We believe this is a great venue to grow the event and your overwhelming number of positive comments supported that. Your comments and suggestions are always encouraged and welcomed. Please email your feedback to hamfestchair@atlantaradioclub.org. We will use these suggestions and comments to improve our future hamfests. Currently we are planning to have our 91st event June 3, 2023. This year our attendance was a little lower than we had hoped and we suffered through a bunch of last minute vendor cancellations related to rising gas prices, illness, and staffing issues. We did everything in our power to make your visit to the Atlanta Hamfest a memorable trip.

Hamfest Highlight: The new 30,000 ft Event Hall gave us plenty of room for vendor and flea marketeers to display their new radios, accessories and flea market goodies. A very special thanks to all our vendors and Tailgaters who traveled long distances to give our fest the latest and greatest new equipment and ham accessories.

A notable for this year, 2022 marked the 38th year in a row that The Signman of Baton Rouge has attended without ever missing an event. Thanks



Pictured: Lee Stone KT4LS, Mickey Baker N4MB, James Schilling KG4JSZ, Martha Muir W4MSA, David Benoist AG4ZR, John Talipsky N3ACK, & Joe Domaleski AKI4SK

for your support Rick (NV5A) and Donna Pourciau. Special thanks to The Wireman and TN07 Engineering, who could not be with us this year for the various reasons listed above, but happily provided some very nice door prizes to add to our stash. Both are very much looking forward to being with us in 2023.

Thanks go out to our ARRL representation on hand. Joining us this weekend were David Benoist, AG4ZR, Section Leader; Mickey Baker, N4MB, Southeast Region Director; James Schilling, KG4JSZ, Southeast Region Vice Director; Lee Stone, KT4LS, Emergency Coordinator; Ed Humphries, KT4ED, Club Coordinator; Martha Muir, W4MSA, Youth Coordinator.

Forums included.

New Hams, presented by Jim Reed, N4BFR and the American Radio Club;

ARRL News and Views, presented by Mickey Baker, N4MB, David Benoist, AG4ZR, AREDN presented by Gene Simmons KK4IB & David Bury KC4JIR;

Georgia Auxcomm, presented by Joe Domaleski, KI4ASK;

Radio Astronomy, presented by Tom Crowley, KT4XN;

Winlink, presented by Richard Spencer, WD4NFT; POTA/SOTA, led by Richard Dervan, N1RBD

A couple of build sessions were well attended. Participants were able to build an End Fed antenna or a dipole antenna, fun had by all!

Door-prize winners were announced.

TNO7 Antenna

Randy Collins N4COR, Snellville, GA
Icom 31A UHF D-STAR HT

Lew Nyman, K1AZE, Montgomery, AL
Icom 4100A VHF/UHF D-Star Mobile

Walt Maxwell, KR4HV, Williamson, GA
Icom 7300 HF/50 MHz Transceiver

Tommy Amely, KO4AIF, Warner Robins, GA

Winner of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Antenna Launching Contest was Jason Kitchens, KV4TE, Villa Rica, who won a \$50 gift certificate from The Wireman and bragging rights until next year.

New this year included a couple of awards. Georgia Educator of the Year and Georgia Club of the Year. We will be accepting nominations for 2023 in the coming months via www.atlantahamfest.com/awards so stay tuned! Congrats to our winners!

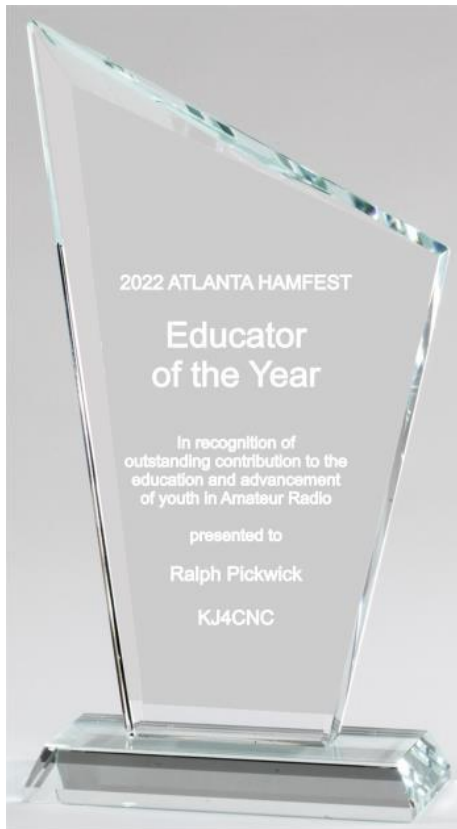
Atlanta Hamfest & Awards

Your support is what makes this event happen every year, we look forward to getting past all the rough times the country has endured the past 3 years and finally get back to a true normal. Remember to support your local event during these times so that the clubs that put these together can continue to bring them to you. Thanks again and see you next year!

John Talipsky, N3ACK

Educator of the Year Award

Congratulations to Amateur Radio educator Ralph Pickwick, KJ4CNC, the first recipient of the newly established "Educator of the Year Award" to be presented at the 2022 Atlanta Hamfest.

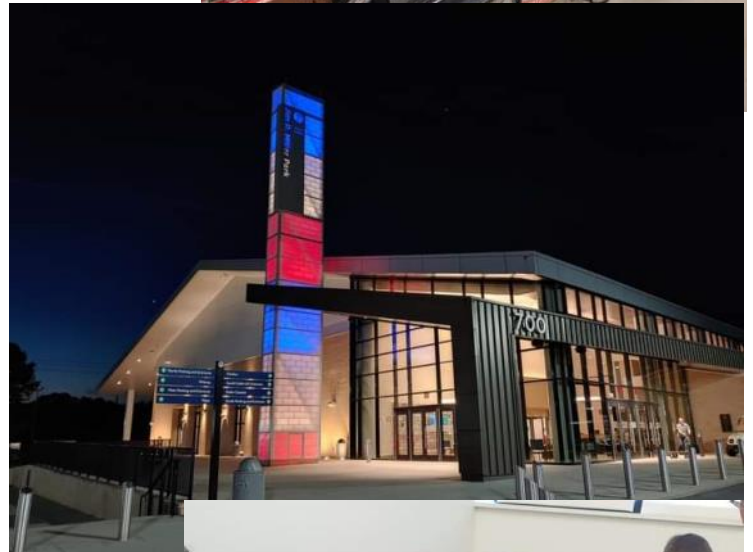


The award, to be given annually, recognizes outstanding dedication in educating and advancing today's youth about ham radio.

Ralph is registered with the ARRL as a License Instructor and contributes a great amount of time and talent to the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society as it provides education and training to the community. He currently serves as McConnell Middle Schools

Outreach Coordinator in Gwinnett County where he has been supporting the staff and students in many aspects of Amateur Radio. Ralph also keeps tabs on radio and STEM activities at Archer High School and Mason Elementary. He has been awarded Student Teacher Status at McConnell Middle School because of his work.

Congratulations Ralph KJ4CNC and thank you for your dedication to advancing the art of ham radio in the community.



Atlanta Hamfest - Club Award



Local club is bestowed new honor probably more important since being named Hamvention Club of the Year on 2014 and that is being named 2022 Atlanta Hamfest - Georgia Club of the Year.

Congratulations to The Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society W4GR!

The award, in its first year, was selected from a group of nominations from around the state of Georgia, submitted via the Atlanta Hamfest website and officially recognized at the June 4th Hamfest.

From January 2020 GARS membership has hovered around 350 members throughout the pandemic. But it's not the number of members, it is their individual contributions to the hobby that makes GARS great. GARS is both an ARRL Special Service Club and Affiliated Club, they also support Gwinnett ARES and Skywarn. The Club supports a \$1000 ARRL Scholarship to be given to any active ham in the Georgia Region moving on to a 4 year institution of higher learning. GARS is active locally in their community with a Spring Technician HamCram, a Summer General

HamCram, a Fall Technician HamCram, communications for the Dacula City Parade, Jamboree on the Air, and most notably their January Techfest. Information for Techfest can be found at techfest.info

Members with ARRL appointments that promote the hobby:

Lee Stone, KT4LS - Section Emergency Coordinator and Assistant Section Manager

Hal Collier, W4IGE - District Emergency and Gwinnett County Emergency Coordinator

Larry Whited, AB4NX - ARRL Technical Specialist, Winlink, Sysop for Winlink, VARA HF and FM; Mark Bell, N7GRB, Winlink Training. Mark also serves as a Gwinnett County ARES AEC for Public Health and as DEC for Training and Development;

Dave Slotter, W3DJS, HamPi

Other leadership positions held by members:

John Davis, WB4QDX - GA AUXCOMM Manager

Steve Back, WB2OGY - Scouting Activities; Troop 514 and Northeast Georgia Council, .

GARS also supports several school club stations, activities, scouting groups in the area including most notably at McConnell Middle School in Loganville, GA and Troop 514 of Lawrenceville, GA.

The Atlanta Hamfest is proud to have been able to award this to a very deserving club.



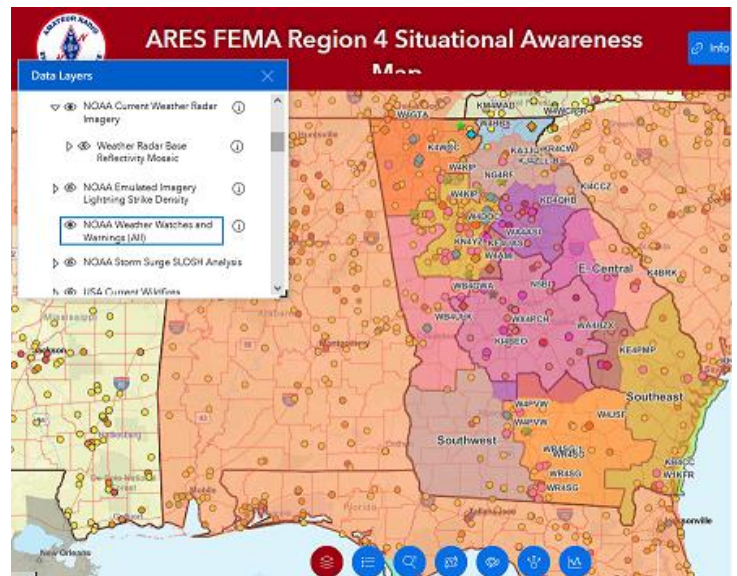
Georgia Situational Awareness Map

For those unaware of a amazing tool, the [Georgia ARES Situational Awareness Map](#) is a project that goes all the way back to 2016, when Georgia ARES was looking to create a display, showing repeater distribution across Georgia. For repeater data the map now relies on [Repeaterbook.com](#). The owner of Repeaterbook.com, Garrett Dow, KD6KPC, has been extremely gracious in giving permission to include his repeater data in the map at no charge.

The map was quickly added to and improved, undergoing three major change over the past five years. By 2019 the map had moved far beyond its original purpose, and had morphed into a situation awareness tool. Also, until this latest update, the Situational Awareness Map was entirely Georgia-focused; it was as though Georgia was an island unto itself. However, we are often directly influenced by what happens in other states, particularly when it comes to weather. Some ARES ECs, particularly those that serve counties that border other states, have asked that coverage be extended into these neighbor states. That process was started with this update, and now county and repeater data is available for Alabama, Florida, Tennessee, North Carolina and South Carolina.

The map also takes advantage of a new feature called 'layer groups', which can be turned on and off as desired.

- The ability to generate elevation profiles - line of sight between two points - directly in the Situational Awareness Map. The capability is available in the function 'widget' bar at the bottom of the map (the line of blue circles). In the past this capability was only available in a separate application
- Georgia repeater coverage heat mapping (under the [Repeater Planning Coverage](#) layer group). This layer provides repeater density-based heat mapping to help evaluate repeater coverage
- Under the [Situational Awareness Infrastructure](#) layer group, Georgia Dams (Safe Dam Program) managed by GDOT has been added, along with Beach Webcams. The camera layer is 'fickle' - these are cameras installed and maintained by commercial activities like resorts and hotels. Camera feed availability can be spotty, particularly during hurricanes or coastal storms. If the camera feed is up and operating, great. If not, well...



- Under the [Transportation](#) layer group, you'll find GDOT 511 Events - a point layer of major traffic issues, mainly related to long-term construction activities. Additionally, there is a more up-to-date GDOT traffic camera feed - GDOT 511 Cameras
- Under the [Hurricane / Tropical Storm Response & Management](#) layer group, you'll find the national data layers for the NOAA Storm Surge (SLOSH) Data. SLOSH stands for Sea, Lake, and Overland Surges from hurricanes and storms. These layers help visualize coastal areas that will be inundated in each of the five hurricane categories
- Under the [Grids](#) layer, is the Georgia State Patrol GSP Aviation SAR Grid. This grid divides the state up into roughly 16 x 19 mile grid squares used to coordinate aerial search & rescue activities.

This special Georgia map will be taking on a larger regional focus over time. Recently, the Maryland Section Emergency Coordinator called to see if the Georgia Situational Awareness Map functionality could be extended to the mid-Atlantic states. The project is in the works, and has the support and involvement of ARES leadership from Maryland, Delaware, DC, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Virginia and West Virginia.

Mega-Kudos to **Brian Haren, W8BYH**, who has spent many years and thousands of hours on this marvelous creation.

Y'all, take some time and browse through all the map layers, it really is amazing!

Amateur Radio - Works when all else fails

On Sunday, 5/23 my wife Mary Catherine (KI4HHI) and I were driving home from the mountains of Western North Carolina (the day after our SOTA activation of Sassafras Mountain). We decided to take the scenic route. As we were turning off Silversteen Road onto NC 281 (west of Lake Toxaway), I heard a loud bang and we lost motive power. I pulled over on the side of the road. What was an otherwise great weekend, literally ended with a bang. She pulled out a cell phone and said, "no service either". We both looked at each other and said "ham radio" at the same time.

I had my Icom ID-52 HT which is loaded with a US repeater directory that locates nearby repeaters using the built-in GPS. A nearby repeater came up and I switched over to it, but couldn't hit it. I gave her an extra HT and put it on simplex and told her I was going to walk down the road to get a better signal. We stayed in contact via simplex. I did not want to leave her alone at the car without communication. Thankful we had the second HT. Here's a picture of KI4HHI waiting in our car with our dog.



I walked a short ways away and was able to find a clearing to hit the Pickens County, SC repeater and make contact with "Brad" KD4FOS. I asked

Brad if he could take down a message and relay it via phone to a few people, which he did. Here's a picture of me making contact with Brad using my



HT. You can see our disabled car off in the distance.

Brad stayed on the repeater with me the whole time. I radioed back to KI4HHI via simplex that contact had been made. When we got confirmation of the tow truck, I headed back to the car. Ham radio not only helped me make a phone relay, but also allowed Mary Catherine and I to stay in contact. Glad I had two radios in the car.

Our car was towed to Brevard, NC. Fortunately, it wasn't the transmission - it was the CV axle boot. Looks like we'll be heading back to Brevard at the end of the week to pick up our car (there goes my new radio money). You can bet we'll have not one, but two radios with us.

In almost 20 years as a ham, I've never had to use it in an emergency for myself until now. So glad we had our radios and were licensed to use them.

Feel free to share this story. Ham radio really does work when all else fails.

73,
Joe (KI4ASK) and Mary Catherine (KI4HHI)

Radio Club News

Coastal Amateur Radio Society



Terri, KO4WFP, (pictured) a recently licensed ham with Billy, KG4SZS, logging for her. In the background are other members of the Wednesday "No Work Club" activating K-3725 Wormsloe Plantation. The group loosely formed tries to get together Wednesday mornings for a few hours.

Also As you may know Steve Jonas K4SDJ recently passed away. A long time Ham he was a big presence not only in the local emergency community and the State Hospital Net. He will be missed.

CARS will set up at the Savannah International Airport Recreation Center for Field Day. All are welcome, bring your equipment or use the clubs. We plan on three stations 80m/20m 40m/15m and dedicated FT8 station. There will be some refreshments and sandwich materials. The building has AC so it should be pleasant. Set up starts at 1200 local.

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

7/19/22 - How to build a 4-element, 2m, Cubical Quad Antenna - Dallas N4DDM

8/16/22 - Winlink email via Amateur Radio - Mark Bell N7GRB

General Class HamCram

WHEN: Saturday 7/30/2022 and Sunday 7/31/2022; 8:00am to 4:00pm each day, exams start at 4:00pm Sunday.

WHERE: EAA 690 Hangar, Gwinnett County Airport – Briscoe Field, 690 Airport Rd, Lawrenceville, GA 30046

MUST Contact for Reservations: hamcram@gars.org

Cherokee County Amateur Radio Society

We had a very successful and educational session on Saturday afternoon by building and testing the ARRL/HFKits end fed antennas. Plan is to use these on Field Day [#fieldday](#) in late June. Thanks to Stan Ham for organizing this and doing the pre work. Great time!



Paulding County



We had a great time tonight supporting the Run With The Badges 5k in Paulding County. Always a pleasure serving with [Paulding County Emergency Management Agency](#) and [Paulding County CERT](#) for such worth while events.

It was a busy night, and this is the only photo I have. Ron West, WB3ILX, and Dave Fuller, K4DMF, working ARES Command.

Radio Club News, p. 2

Coastal Plains Amateur Radio Society

The Foxhunt held on May 14th was a huge success! The last time we did this was in 1987 so it was long overdue. We had 21 attend and 7 teams hunting. Of the 7 teams hunting 4 teams found the fox in the allotted time of 2 hours. After the foxhunt we gathered for lunch at the Tift Regional Hospital Ham Station in Tifton, GA for lunch.

I especially want to thank the guys who are not members of CPARC for participating. We are a small group and appreciate it when others support us! I also want to thank all those who helped make this a success.

There was so much interest and we had so much fun that we will be doing another one soon.

For more information on CPARC, we are on groups.io and on Facebook. Look for W4PVW on both.

Greg, W4GHW



1st place
N8EAR & KO4LTW



2nd place
K4JSF & KM4EYX

Dalton Amateur Radio Club



Two of our members were at Chatsworth Axe when they struck up a conversation about amateur radio with the owners. After some discussion the owners asked about a demonstration of amateur radio at their place of business. On Saturday April 30, 2022 I met with the owners and discussed the feasibility of such a demonstration. We decided to take advantage of the ARRL Kids Day Scheduled for June 18, 2022 to set up a portable station and demonstrate Amateur radio to the public. The owners of Chatsworth Axe have also approached the local Chamber of Commerce for their support.

I see this a great opportunity to demonstrate the preparedness, portability, and service that amateur radio can provide to the public. If anyone in the Chatsworth area would like to come by and operate, to help in anyway please feel free to join us.

Chatsworth Axe, 234 S. 2nd Ave., Chatsworth, GA
18 Jun 2022 from noon - 6:00pm

Jack P Thompson, N5UOV

Middle Georgia, specifically Houston County, is standing up an AREDN MESH network. Dave, KC4JIR, and Sparks, KK4IB, presented a status report and demonstration at the Georgia Hamfestival on 4 June. This network is being developed to support emergency communications between two hospitals, three Med-Stops, and the County EOC ... and other users.

The Middle Georgia AREDN MESH network has 8 - 12 nodes in operation using a combination of RF and tunneling, and includes one mobile/portable node with an IP camera on it. The network includes two active tunnel servers. GA-AREDN-USERS@groups.io.

Dave and Sparks both support the Monthly Hospital net and operate gateway stations on the Middle GA Data network, www.midgadadata.lumasis.net, running packet, Vara FM, and DRATS; on 145.030 MHz.

Contact Sparks: kk4ib@arrl.net, or Dave: KC4JIR@arrl.net.

Radio Club News, cont.

Athens Radio club Special Event N1D

A short video of this special event, from Stanford Stadium

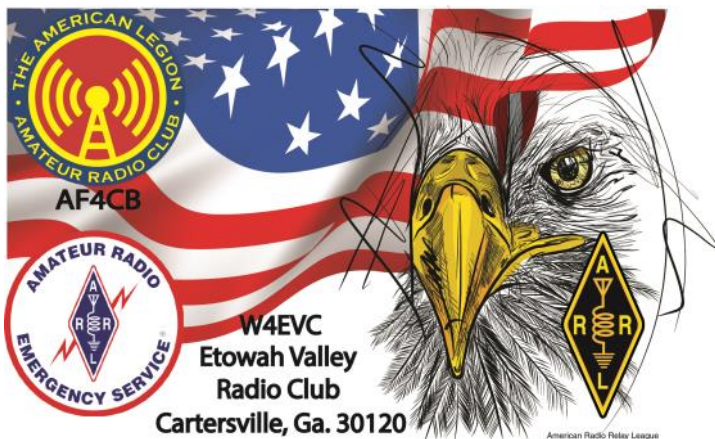
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ODxNcNXgUWk>

Atlanta Radio Club's K4KHO

K4KHO – Yusef Ibn Yusef, hikes to the top of Blood Mountain, on a SOTA adventure. Then, he makes a video about portable operation, with the Yaesu FT-857D in particular. Support his channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eANbbUNs5pA>

Etowah Valley Radio Club



At our April meeting we finalized our new W4EVC logo shown above. The meeting highlight was a presentation by Greg Roper on 3D printing. Greg brought in his 3D printer and during the presentation had the printer running and printing a part to tighten antenna connectors to HT's. I was surprised to know that the price of 3D printing has come down and you don't have to be a large enterprise to get in on the 3D printing trend. Greg's total set up came at a cost of about \$450 dollars. Like everything else this is a starting point. You can invest much more if you have the time, money and desire to get into 3D printing.

We continue to clean, fix, and paint the new space and are proud to be able to meet and enjoy the fellowship of the club members.

Jack McElroy KM4ZIA launched HAB (high-altitude balloon) W8BI-11 on Saturday, May 21 from the Dayton Hamvention.

We've been tracking its progress with Bill Brown. It flew over my hometown of Pittsburgh, PA!! It was providing updates every few minutes as long as the sun was shining on the solar panels.

The panels charge up a super capacitor, which then allow the onboard computer system to boot up, turn on the GPS tracking module, build packets of data, turn on the onboard Ham Radio, and begin transmitting packets to Ham Radio receiving stations on the ground. Those stations relay the packets of data out to the APRS.FI map. But out over Bluewater between the coast of South Carolina in the middle of the Caribbean Sea, there are no ground stations! We didn't hear anything from the satellite on Sunday or Monday. It started to look pretty grim! Did it come down in a storm? Did the sharks get it? And what about that Bermuda triangle?

But earlier today the rising Sun powered up the spacecraft and it began transmitting just as it flew at 41,000 feet over Port-au-Prince Haiti. If you click on the link below you'll see a balloon icon. Click on the balloon icon and you'll see real time telemetry.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/AbVWzw1ePymc3ZGu5>

SOLAR- HF PROPAGATION NUMBERS EXPLAINED . . .

SFI SOLAR FLUX INDEX (10.7CM) - 120 AND ABOVE = GOOD
SN - NUMBER OF SUN SPOTS - 50 AND ABOVE = GOOD
STORM A INDEX - 25 AND BELOW = GOOD
STORM K INDEX - 4 AND ABOVE = BAD
X-RAY SOLAR FLARE (IE, A1.0) - (A,B,C CLASS=GOOD M,X CLASS=BAD) (4 AND ABOVE = BAD)
KP INDEX (PLANETARY) - 3 AND BELOW = GOOD
AP INDEX (PLANETARY VALUE) - 30 AND ABOVE = BAD
304A (EXTREME UV RADIATION F2 REGION) - 140 AND ABOVE = GOOD
G S R (GEOMAGNETIC STORM, SOLAR RADIATION STORM, RADIO BLACKOUT - BELOW 2 = GOOD
SOLAR WIND - 800 OR BELOW = GOOD
BZ - 0 OR ABOVE = GOOD

Awards & Announcements



Charles Pennington K4GK Retires at the End of June

On Sunday June 13, 2022, at the end of the weekly HF voice net Charles Pennington K4GK announced his retirement as weekly net control station at the end of June. Charles served as net control for 60 years! This is likely a world record for longevity of anyone serving in this capacity.

Being a weekly net control station every week for any length of time requires an extraordinary commitment to say nothing of doing it for much more than half a century. The number of call signs that Charles recorded is certainly in the hundreds of thousands. During his announcement yesterday Charles stated he once had 240+ check ins for a single net!

A few days after the weekly net a few years ago, I heard a new ARES participant to the HF net say, "I don't know how Charles does it. At one point a half dozen stations were trying to check in at the same time. Charles was able to hear all of them, and he got all the call signs right!" I am sure that there are many other stories that can be told about Charles' abilities as an NCS.

Charles is not completely leaving the HF net. He stated that he will be available for nets if needed for an emergency.

The HF net for the next couple of weeks will be special. Please make every effort to participate.

Georgia Section ARRL Technical Specialists

Georgia Amateurs who have volunteered to help support Amateur Activity. If you have experience and "know-how" in any aspect of Amateur Radio and want to help others, contact the Section Manager David Benoit AG4ZR at ag4zr@arri.net.

Ron West WB3ILX – North Metro Atlanta
Specialist in digital communication and radio systems. Experience with most of the common digital systems including Winlink, FLDigi, Dstar, DMR to name a few. WB3ILX@gmail.com

EB "Sparks" Simmons KK4IB – Warner Robins
Specialist in AREDN radio and networking systems. Experience with AREDN network construction, linking, and application interface.
KK4IB@arri.net

David Bury KC4JIR – Warner Robbins
Specialist in AREDN radio and networking systems. Experience with AREDN network construction, linking, and application interface.
KC4JIR@arri.net

David Slotter W3DJS – North Metro Atlanta
Specialist in all things digital and network related. David offers support in a broad range of Amateur digital and software support and is the author and developer of the HamPi application.
hamradioquestions@slotter.net

ARES - Time Reporting

GA ARES time reporting started again with a new system in January 2022 After the ARRL stopped providing the ARES Connect application. This meant going back to the old system on the GA ARES web site. Because the application is setup to send a mail message with the data, each submission must be tabulated individually. This process was very time consuming for Bob Garza ASEC - Reporting.

The new system is setup using Microsoft Forms. A new link is generated and distributed at the end of each month so that ECs and others can report the time for their groups in the format required by ARRL and downloaded in a fully populated Excel spreadsheet. The data is transformed and summarized to exact format required for the ARRL report form. The downloading and processing takes less than 10 minutes. The old method of individual mail messages took Bob 8 - 10 hours to complete.

The report form is active starting at 00:01 hours on the first day of the month and is open until 23:59 hours on the seventh day of the month.

The form is setup to also gather other valuable data important to GA ARES. After many questions, explanations, and adjustments to the form questions, the process appears to be working smoothly. The questions are a bit confusing, but they match how the ARRL wants the data.

Lee Stone, KT4LS, GA ARES SEC

Report Data Through May 2022

Category	January	February	March	April	May	YTD Total
Number of exercise and training events	609	804	539	275	599	2826
Number of hours for exercise and training	1829.45	2945.77	4000.45	2150.747	2475.55	13401.967
Number of public service events this month	7	15	32	18	8	80
Number of hours for public service events	156.25	251	908.7	508	150	1973.95
Number of emergency operations this month	2	2	2	2	0	8
Number of hours for emergency operations	12	9	11	24	0	56
Number of SKYWARN operations	20	18	25	35	12	110
Number of SKYWARN hours	399	83.22	170.25	136	75.5	863.97